THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE.

OPEN the door for the children,
Tenderly gather them in:
In from the highways and hedges,
In from the haunts of sin.
Some are so young and so helpless,
Some are so hungry and cold:
Open the door for the children,
Gather them into the fold.

Open the door for the children;
See! they are coming in throngs;
Bid them sit down to the banquet,
Teach them your beautiful songs.
Pray you the Father to bless them,
Pray you that grace may be given:
Open the door for the children,—
"Of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Open the door for the children,
Take the dear lambs by the hand;
Point them to Jesus and goodness,
Lead them to Canaan's land.
Some are so young and so helpless,
Some are so hungry and cold:
Open the door for the children,
Gather them into the fold.

VOLUME I.—NEW SERIES.

LONDON:
RAGGED SCHOOL UNION, 1, EXETER HALL;
KENT & CO., PATERNOSTER ROW;
AND ALL BOOKSELLERS.

PREFACE.

In reviewing another year of Ragged School work, we are called as in all former years to express our gratitude to Him who has so richly fulfilled His gracious promise—they that "sow in tears SHALL reap in joy."

As School Boards have been actively at work for four years, we can now trace some of the effects which they have had on our movement, and so in some degree forecast the future of Ragged Schools. As was anticipated, the attendance of our Day Scholars has decreased above a moiety; but in every other department we have not only held our own, but made further aggressions on the paganism by which we are surrounded. Thus, in addition to 102 Night Schools, the affiliated institutions conduct about 1,000 operations for the social or spiritual weal of our poorer brethren. These figures tell the rate of progress still more strikingly when it is stated that no less than 90 operations were commenced last year. Of these, 75 were distinctively spiritual or social. Our various agencies embrace at least 40,000 persons, old and young—the population of "no mean city."

It is scarcely needful to reiterate that the need of Ragged Schools is not yet extinct, nor will they be unnecessary so long as myriads are cradled in poverty, and sin, and misery. Filthy and over-crowded hovels, penny gaffs, and thieves' haunts abound everywhere in the byways of London, Whatever then School Boards may do to raise the tone of secular instruction, they cannot successfully contend with such crying social evils. It is in moral wastes like these that Ragged Schools find their proper sphere of labour; and if the past may be regarded as at all prophetic of the future it is in this part of God's vineyard they will find that the sower and reaper are one. For we do not fear any retrogression in our mission so long as 3,000 men and women, energised by the Holy One, storm den and alley, Bible in hand, in the prayerful hope that they may win the poor for Jesus.

The chief object in the issue of this magazine has been to stimulate present, and to enlist new labourers in this great home mission. By sketches of Ragged Schools at home and abroad, by describing agencies now in operation, or by the suggestion of new schemes or methods of usefulness, and by the narration of real, not imaginary, cases of good done both to body and soul, we have sought to edify as well as to encourage our fellow-workers. As much of our future success depends upon the co-operation of our readers, we need scarcely add that all communications of facts or of suggestions will be ever regarded as "welcome guests." In this way we shall not only help on a movement which God has signally blessed from the outset; but we shall hasten on the glorious day when the wide world will be so consecrated to Christ, that even on the very "bells of the horses will be inscribed—Holiness unto the Lord!"

THE EDITOR.

1, EXETER HALL, W.C.,
December 1st, 1874.

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RECENT CASE IN CORNWALL.

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In a letter, dated October 8, F. B. writes me:—"I am thankful to say your good advice has done me wonderful good. *I feel altogether like a new creature.* I return you my sincere thanks. If I find any return of symptoms I will apply to you again immediately."

EXTRACT from a LETTER of W. POOLE, Missionary, 83, London Road, READING.

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Friend, A	0	5	0
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Griffith, Miss G.	0	10	0
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Pritchett, Miss A.	1	1	0
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